

Norrisville Community Area

Community Character

The Norrisville Community Area is located in the rural northwest corner of Harford County and is bounded by the Maryland/Pennsylvania line to the north, the Harford/Baltimore County line to the west, White Hall Road, Little Deer Creek, and St. Clair Bridge Road to the south, and Rocks Road to the east. The small Rural Village of Norrisville is located in the northwest corner of the planning area along MD Route 23, and serves some of the basic needs of the farming and residential communities. The hamlets of Shawsville and Carea are also located within the Norrisville Community Area.

The Norrisville Community Area is served by two State roads, MD Routes 23 and 136. Maryland Route 23 runs north and south through this community area, allowing through-traffic access to southern Pennsylvania. Maryland Route 136, which intersects MD Route 23 at Norrisville, traverses the upper reaches of this planning area west to east. Interestingly, both State roads are made up of early historic road segments. In colonial America, Norrisville Road (MD Route 23) was part of the early road system to York, Pennsylvania, while MD Route 136, which sweeps Harford County in a broad arc, connected the northern reaches of the County with the early settlements of Bush and Abingdon.

Varying from steep valley slopes, rolling hills, and highland plateaus, the terrain of this northwest corner of the County is a product of Deer Creek, with the area's many streams contributing almost exclusively to the Deer Creek Watershed. Rock outcroppings and deeply cut gorges -- replete with hemlock, mountain laurel, mosses, and ferns -- are a common occurrence in this region's stream valleys. Bisecting the planning area from northwest to southeast, the most prominent physical feature of this region's landscape is Deer Creek, a State-designated Scenic River. Large amounts of forested land prevail on the sloping walls of the Deer Creek Valley, with substantial woodland remaining in the lesser stream valleys and between cleared agricultural fields. This area also has a very high concentration of habitat that supports Bog Turtles – *Clemmys Muhlenbergii*. The bog turtle is globally ranked as being very rare, and both the State and the Federal government have denoted this species as Threatened. Generally, continued agricultural use of the land supports the habitat of these species. Several conservation areas and summer camps are located within the Norrisville Community Area, paying tribute to the beautiful upland landscape.

The Deer Creek Valley is interspersed with historic mills and associated structures which lend to its beauty and manifest the industrial importance of the Creek throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. Historic Amos Mill, Ivory Mill, Eden Mill Park and Nature Center, and a satellite portion of Rocks State Park are just some of the significant features located along Deer Creek in this community area.

Agriculture remains the primary land use throughout the Norrisville Community Area, with grain, orchard, hay, dairy goods, and beef as the principal agricultural products. Numerous farmhouses, barns, and outbuildings dot the hillsides or are nestled in the valleys, contributing greatly to the character of this pastoral landscape. The participation of many landholders in this planning area in

State or local agricultural preservation, either with conservation easement or under an agricultural district program, will help to preserve this area's rural character. Currently over 30% of the community area is protected through preservation programs.

The Norrisville Area had a 2000 population of 2,931 which is 1.3% of the County's total population (Figure 63). Between 1990 and 2000, the population of the area increased by 3.9 %. While the number of persons between the ages of 20 - 34 living in the area decreased by 35%, from 608 to 395, other age groups grew in size. The population between the ages of 50 - 64 showed the highest growth with a 34% increase, from 385 to 518. Demographic data suggests that the community has grown modestly and should remain a primarily agricultural area. During this time period, the number of households increased by 18.3%, from 1,139 to 1,348.

Norrisville Demographic Profile: 1990 – 2000

	1990	2000	Percent Change
Total Population	2,822	2,931	3.86%
Total Households	1,139	1,348	18.35%
Median Household Income (in current \$)	\$42,775	\$62,862	46.96%
Employment	247	315	27.53%
Population By Race / Hispanic Origin			
White	2,775	4,124	48.61%
Black	30	19	-36.67%
American Indian/Alaska Native	5	17	240.00%
Asian/Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	12	12	0%
Other	0	5	500.00%
Population of 2 or more Races	NA	36	NA
Hispanic Population	15	21	40.00%

Figure 63

Throughout the County, household income is up 37%. The median household income for this area grew 47% in the last decade from \$42,775 to \$62,862. Households in this community earning over \$100,000 a year increased by 340%, while households earning less than \$75,000 a year decreased by 25%. Total employment in this area increased by 28%, from 247 to 315.

The small Rural Village of Norrisville serves some of the basic needs of the farming and residential communities, with a recreation complex, local volunteer fire department, and the Norrisville Reading Center. Norrisville Elementary School is located on MD Route 23 within the designated rural village. Middle and high school aged students in the community attend North Harford in Pylesville. Based on the October 2003 amendment of the Annual Growth Report, these schools are all operating at less than the APF standard for capacity. With a gymnasium and library spaces, the newly constructed Norrisville Community Center offers new learning and interaction opportunities for the community. In 2003, the Department of Parks and Recreation acquired the Rutledge property in Jarrettsville. This is envisioned as an active open space facility that will service the Jarrettsville and Norrisville Community Areas. Some designated business uses are located within the small village

along the east side of MD Route 23. Due to the limited commercial ventures, however, residents must travel outside of the community area for the bulk of their retail needs.

Plan for the Area

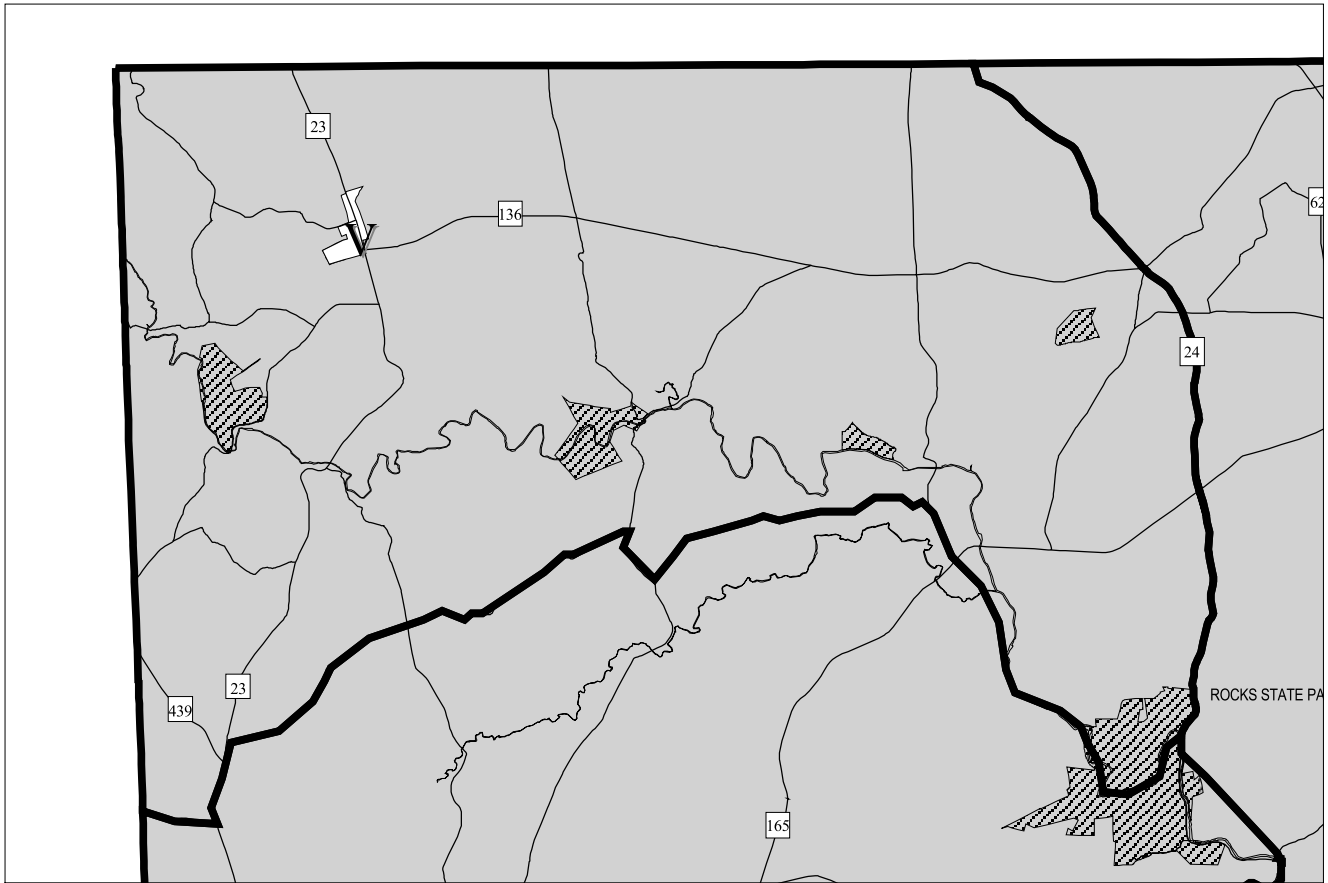
Many landowners in the Norrisville Area already participate in State and County agricultural preservation programs. The County will continue to focus its agricultural preservation efforts in this productive, rural region of the County. Emphasis on agricultural preservation activities in this northwest corner is desirable to maintain agriculture as the primary land use and to support the continued viability of the agricultural industry in Harford County in general. A holistic approach to agricultural preservation should be taken and should include watershed protection, stewardship of resources, and the encouragement of agricultural industry-related businesses.

As a result of the agricultural activities and limitations of the Deer Creek and tributary areas within the Norrisville Community Area, little change to the area is anticipated. However, with continually increasing business development in Baltimore County to the west and residential development in Stewartstown, Pennsylvania, to the north, it is likely that residential development pressure will increase in the Norrisville Area. This Plan supports maintaining density for agriculturally zoned lands at one dwelling unit per 10 acres, and maintaining the boundaries of the Norrisville Rural Village.

Studies also indicate that Harford County has a sufficient inventory of commercially zoned land to meet its needs. Based on this, no additional commercial zoning will be supported within this community area unless further analysis identifies a need for more commercial land in this area. Any changes in zoning will be subject to a technical analysis to ensure that the proposed change will not generate adverse impacts in the community.

A collective effort involving both the community and Harford County Government is needed to enhance the Rural Village as the focal point of Norrisville. A proactive approach should be taken to identify the needs of the community and encourage potential professional and consumer businesses of an appropriate type and scale for the Rural Village. Recent development proposals have aroused concern about the appearance and scale of new development in and around the Norrisville area. The County will review and revise its Zoning Code to address this issue. New development should be consistent with the surrounding rural character. The current, relatively small size of the Rural Village provides the community and its representatives the opportunity to plan and accomplish their visions for the future.

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Norrisville Community Area

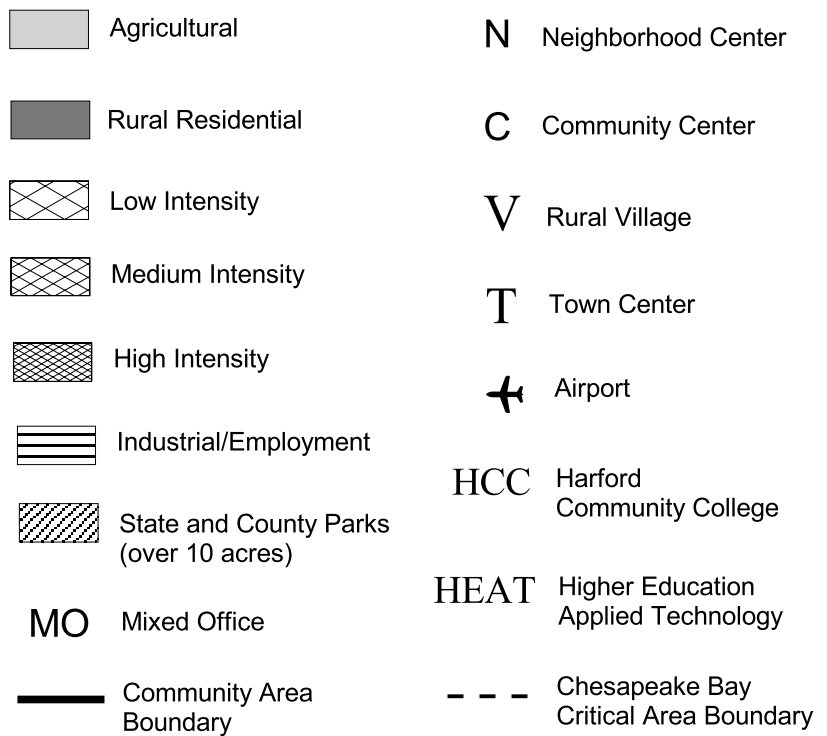
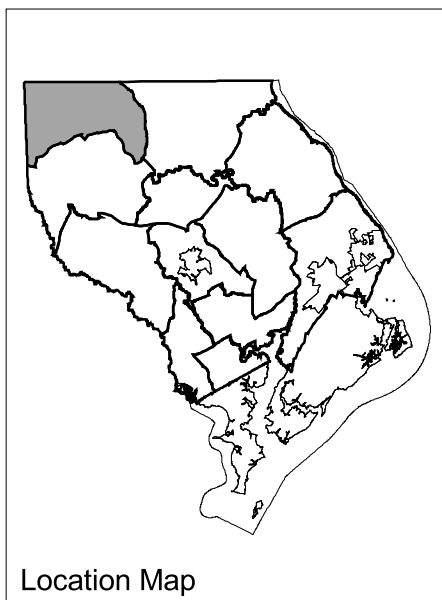



Figure 64 

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